ensure effective devolution of funds and functionaries commensurate with the devolution of functions. A Joint Statement of conclusions was adopted at the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the States would fix milestones in Activity Mapping and expedite the issue of necessary orders to operationalise the devolution of funds and functions for devolved activities to different tiers of the Panchayati Raj system. A copy of the Joint Resolution may be seen [Refer to the Statement-I appended to the answer to unstarred question 2280]

CNG link across the country

†2286. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in the country provided with the facility of CNG link and supply and since when the same has been provided;

(b) the locations in the said States where this facility has been provided, the number and nature of the industries located there; and

(c) by when the facility of CNG link will be provided to Bhiwari Industrial Area in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Natural gas is being supplied in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Tripura. The supplies of gas on commercial scale started mainly from early eighty's in Assam, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Subsequently, with the development of HBJ pipeline in 1987, gas became available to the consumers in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The supplies in KG Basin in Andhra Pradesh and Cauvery Basin in Tamil Nadu started in the ninety's. Of the total available gas, about 75% is being supplied to power and fertilizer sector consumers. The remaining gas caters to needs of consumers of sponge iron, glass/ceramics, petrochemicals, city gas distribution etc., in the above States.

With regard to CNG as auto fuel. at present CNG Stations have been set up by JV/PSUs in Delhi, Noida in UP, Mumbai in Maharashtra, Vadodra & Vaghodia in Gujarat and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Some

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

CNG outlets have also been set up by some private/multinational companies in Gujarat. CNG will be progressively introduced in other polluted cities with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas, and also subject to economic viability.

(c) At present GAIL have no plans of supplying CNG/Natural Gas to industries in the Bhiwari industrial area becuase a pipeline network is not available in close proximity to this area as also because gas for this purpose is yet to be made available.

New oil pricing policy

2287. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that petroleum products like petrol, diesel, LPG etc. are being sold to the consumers on the basis of import price, despite the fact that there is huge domestic investment in the refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the names of beneficiaries of such huge domestic investment (refinery-wise);

(c) the reasons for not percolating benefits down to the consumers in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to formulate any new oil pricing to safeguard interest of consumers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Sensitive petroleum products, including petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene are not sold to consumers at the import parity price. In April, 2002, with the intention of moving to market-determined pricing for petroleum products, Government announced the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). In accordance with that decision, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) pay petroleum product's prices on an import parity basis to refineries, but full import parity prices are not realized from consumers of sensitive products like petrol, diesel, kerosene and domestic LPG. The difference is subsidized, partly by Government and largely by the oil sector.

(b) There are eighteen (18) refineries in the country including one in the private sector. The details are given in the statement (*See* below).